

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 18**  
**INCIDENT NO. 2000-016**  
**DATE: July 7, 2000 TIME: 4:00 p.m.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Flooding and ground saturation – Due to a series of storms and high water tables, resulting from eight years of consecutive flooding.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: The Red River of the North is flowing approximately 25 feet above top-of-dam (weir) elevation at the Drayton Dam, according to engineers at the State Water Commission. The weir elevation measures 763 feet; river stage on July 6 was 787.7 feet. Flows at this location were approximately 29,100 cubic feet per second (cfs); long term, the average flow during this time of year is 4,600 cfs. Local officials reported that erosion is occurring on both sides of the dam. Elsewhere, the Red River continues to drop. This morning, the river level was below the 28-foot flood stage at East Grand Forks, measuring 23.59 feet. In Oslo, the river was at 24.9 feet; flood stage is 28 feet.

The Sheyenne River will rise during the next few days as a result of recent rainfall. Forecasts by the National Weather Service (NWS) call for the river to rise one foot over its 11-foot flood stage at Lisbon by July 8, and near its 16-foot flood stage in West Fargo by July 10. This morning, the river measured 13 feet at West Fargo. The level was not available this morning for Lisbon.

A Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) for Ransom County places total damages to township roads at \$121,000. The report does not take into account storm damages that occurred on July 5 when one to three inches of rain fell. Hail was reported in the Englevale area; corn fields were shredded, and wheat fields were flattened. One township official reported water washed over a road in three places, and one resident reported that gravel from his driveway washed into his yard and a nearby ditch.

In Benson County, flash flooding occurred on July 4th after some areas received 1.5 to 3 inches of rain. Federal Aid System (FAS) roads, as well as non-federal aid county roads and township roads, have washed out due to saturated soil and recent downpours of rain. Some roads have been closed, limiting emergency access. To date, some areas of Benson County have received up to 12 inches of rainfall.

Crisis Counseling staff at the Lake Region Human Service Center reported an increase in flood victims seeking counseling services. Counselors worked with 63 individuals, delivering 1,055 hours of clinical service, during March 1 to May 31. During the previous quarter, 52 individuals sought assistance, and counselors provided 858 hours of clinical services. Workers recently began to record the number of individuals seeking counseling because of farming-related crises. Since April, counselors have offered 13 hours of clinical services to 15 individuals.

On July 5 in Bottineau County, more than five inches of rain fell in the Lansford area, inundating streets and basements and damaging the city sewer system. Residents and city employees are participating in cleanup efforts.

Richland County received one to five inches of rain on July 5 as a series of storms passed through the area. The westbound lane of N.D. Highway 11 in Fairmount was flooded during these storms, and several city streets in Wahpeton were flooded when two inches of rain fell in a short period of time.

Severe thunderstorm activity in Stutsman County on July 4-5 resulted in the flooding of a railroad viaduct and several streets in Jamestown, requiring police and street crews to set up barricades throughout the city. While no tornado touched down, Stutsman County was under a tornado warning and numerous thunderstorm warnings as the storms brought heavy rain and hail to the area. Rainfall ranged from nearly one to four inches. Golfball-size hail was reported in Cleveland, and pea-size hail in the Pingree area. Pea-size to nickel-size hail fell in the Jamestown and Courtenay areas. Grain fields in the Cleveland area and north of Jamestown were flattened because of the heavy rain, and a township road in the Pingree area washed out. In Jamestown, residents reported that vehicles driving through the runoff were creating waves that were jeopardizing their homes. The N.D. Highway Patrol reported that water was flowing over the road on I-94 west of Windsor, temporarily stopping traffic.

The National Weather Service (NWS) reported July 4-5 storm impacts for other areas in North Dakota as follows: three inches of rain in the Maxbass area in Bottineau County; 1.8 inches of rain, three-quarter inch hail and subsequent flooding in the Fessenden area in Wells County; 0.88 inches of rain in Gackle in Logan County; three-quarter-inch to one-inch-sized hail in Beach in Golden Valley County, Fairfield in Billings County, and Edgeley and Jud in LaMoure County; and 1.75-inch hail in Amidon in Slope County.

Because of heavy rainfall that fell recently in the Wells, Eddy and Foster Counties during past few weeks, the reservoir levels at both Pipestem and Jamestown Dams have been increasing, according to the Stutsman County Emergency Manager. As of July 5, the elevation of Pipestem Dam measured 1,454.2 feet. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is releasing 25 cfs from Pipestem. The Jamestown Dam is currently at 1,433 feet. Approximately two feet of water is being stored in the reservoir's flood control pool. The USACE is releasing 225 cfs.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Board issued a revised damage report for Traill County for damages sustained when excessive rain fell on June 19 and 20. These damages have been compounded by recent rainfall. Agriculture officials place percent of loss to 230,850 acres on 400 farms at 10 to 35 percent.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: The Community Resource Coordination Committee (CRCC) will discuss coordinating voluntary agency resources during a meeting at the local Red Cross Chapter in Fargo at 11:00 a.m. July 11. The Council for Unmet Needs will meet afterward. Agencies participating in the CRCC include: The Salvation Army, United Way, United Methodist Committee on Relief, Lutheran Social Services, Congregational United Church of Christ, the N.D. Attorney General's Office, Legal Assistance of North Dakota, Environmental Services, Village Family Services, Church World Services, the Federal

Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Southeast North Dakota Community Action Agency, Great Plains Food Pantry, N.D. Department of Human Services, Catholic Family Service and the American Red Cross.

On July 12, a resource coordination meeting, facilitated by the United Way of Grand Forks, will be held at 2 p.m. at The Salvation Army office in Grand Forks to discuss long-term recovery and unmet needs.

The Salvation Army to date has distributed 942 cleanup kits and served 4,503 meals throughout the impacted area. The volunteer agency will be downsizing their feeding operations, retaining one canteen to feed work crews as needed.

The American Red Cross has served 12,410 meals to clients and emergency workers. The Red Cross has two service centers and outreach teams assisting 518 families and individuals with food, clothing, shelter, medication, mental health and other special need referrals. Ninety-five staff members and volunteers remain on scene assisting families and individuals with emergency needs. The Red Cross anticipates transitioning operations from federal to local chapters by the end of the week. The local chapters will continue to assist clients with their needs and will be involved with long-term recovery.

Lutheran Rural Response staff members have been conducting phone counseling with flood victims and will be offering counseling to refugees through their Center for New Americans. Translators will also assist clients.

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), Mennonites and Jewish Disaster partnered in cleanup efforts during the past weekend. UMCOR will send a team on July 8 to clean five homes in the affected area.

Legal Assistance of North Dakota has been addressing landlord-rental sanitation issues.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Governor Schafer announced on July 5 that Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) is available in the 18 counties and two Indian reservations that have been declared disaster areas under FEMA-1334-DR-ND. Claims must be made by August 4, 2000, at local North Dakota Job Service offices. DUA is a federal program that provides jobless payments to individuals who are not eligible for state unemployment benefits. Those who may be eligible include self-employed individuals, business owners, farmers, farm workers and migrant farm workers whose ability to work was interrupted by flooding or ground saturation. Job Service is distributing posters, conducting direct mailings to farmers and issuing periodic announcements through the media.

On July 5, Governor Schafer signed the federal-state agreement outlining the scope of assistance and authorizing disaster recovery support from federal agencies. The agreement names Douglas C. Friez, director of the North Dakota Division of Emergency Management (ND DEM), as the Governor's Authorized Representative, and Harold Narum, deputy director of ND DEM, as the Deputy GAR.

Suzanne Schmitt of FEMA has been named Deputy Federal Coordinating Officer (DFCO) and will be overseeing operations in Fargo. Steve Emory of FEMA Region VIII is the FCO.

A state-federal Disaster Field Office (DFO) opened this week at 1022 East Divide Avenue in Bismarck. Satellite DFOs have opened at 1150 Prairie Parkway, Fargo, and at the Masonic Temple at 351 Towner Avenue, Larimore.

Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) will open on July 10 at the Civic Auditoriums in Grand Forks and in Fargo. Mobile DRCs will visit highly-impacted areas within the next few weeks.

FEMA has established a special web site for North Dakota residents affected by recent floods. The web site is located at: [www.fema.gov/Reg-VIII/floods.htm](http://www.fema.gov/Reg-VIII/floods.htm).

Inspector training will be held in Fargo on July 11 for the Public Assistance Program. Applicant briefings will be conducted today in Fargo and in Larimore. A briefing was held July 6 in Rugby. Training for Public Assistance Coordinators was held July 6.

State and federal Community Relations field officers completed training on July 6, and have begun working with impacted counties to address the concerns of public officials and individuals impacted by flooding. Community Relations representatives met with Aging Services and Crisis Counseling staffs of the N.D. Department of Human Services to begin coordination of an initiative to reach special needs populations.

As of this morning, 3,069 North Dakotans had registered for assistance through FEMA's teleregistration center. Of those, 2,595 applications are under review by the Disaster Housing Program. To date, FEMA has paid more than \$1.5 million in housing benefits and completed 1,073 home inspections.

The Individual and Family Grant Program (IFGP), administered by North Dakota Emergency Management, has trained applicant processors and began processing applications today.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director